GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
SAFE PASSAGE TO HARDCORE CRIMINALS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army had provided safe passage to some hardcore militants holed up in a mosque in Khadwara in Phulwama district in J&K as reported in the 'Times of India' dated June 1, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that such decisions have adverse impact on the morale of the Army and other security forces; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.

(d) Government's directions to the security forces to handle different situations are clear and unambiguous. They do not impose any restrictions in dealing with operational matters.